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ROGERS, L. *The postal power of Congress. A study in constitutional expansion.* Johns Hopkins University studies in historical and political science, series XXXIV, no. 2. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press. 1916. Pp. 189.)

Trade, Commerce, and Commercial Crises

History of Domestic and Foreign Commerce of the United States.

By EMORY R. JOHNSON, T. W. VAN METRE, G. G. HUEBNER, and D. S. HANCHETT. With an introductory note by HENRY W. FARNAM. Two volumes. (Washington, D. C.: The Carnegie Institution. 1915. Pp. xv, 363; ix, 398. Paper, \$6; cloth, \$7.)

American economists will regard with particular interest this work, the first published of the divisional summaries of the Contributions to American Economic History, from the Department of Economics and Sociology of the Carnegie Institution. The project of this coöperative economic history was adopted by the institution in 1903. In the years intervening the department has given earnest of its activity by the publication of the monumental *Documentary History and Index of Economic Material*, and by assistance in the preparation of many special studies, designed to serve as material for the elaboration of the editors, and of which many have already appeared as monographs. To some, doubtless, the time required for the publication of results has seemed exorbitant. To those who have worked in the field and appreciate its difficulties slow progress has seemed inevitable. At any rate, the two volumes which now appear under Professor Johnson's leadership will still any complaints as to his part of the work. They are well worth waiting for.

Each volume is divided into three parts, and the contents, with an indication of the authorship, are as follows: American commerce to 1789, E. R. Johnson; Internal commerce, T. W. Van Metre; The coastwise trade, T. W. Van Metre; Foreign trade since 1789, G. G. Huebner; The fisheries, T. W. Van Metre; Government aid and commercial policy, D. S. Hanchett. The plan of collaboration was actually more complicated than appears in this summary. Professor Johnson directed the whole investigation and stimulated the preparation of a number of monographs, of which some, by McFarland, Tower, Giesecke, C. L. Jones, and J. R. Smith, have already come out independently, while others, by S. S. and G. G. Huebner on the history of

the foreign trade of the United States, by T. Conway, Jr., on coastwise commerce, by W. S. Tower on fisheries outside New England, are still unpublished. Professor Johnson, further, exchanged with his collaborators in the preparation of special chapters, and edited the whole work so effectively that its composite character is nowhere unpleasantly apparent. His success is due in part, perhaps, to the fact that he chose his assistants from colleagues at the University of Pennsylvania, with whom he was in regular and intimate relations.

The subject of the first part of the work, the commerce of the colonial period, is that which has already received the most careful attention from scholars, and which therefore offers the least scope for the contribution of new views or material. The particular merit of Professor Johnson's treatment lies in the skill with which he has set forth in due relation and proportion the factors in the development of colonial commerce. With chapters describing growth and policy by periods of time (1600-1660-1700-1776-1789) are combined others devoted to geographical influences, the fisheries, the coasting trade, and the organization of commerce. Professor Johnson also contributed the first chapter of the part devoted to the foreign trade of the country in the national period, giving a survey of American commerce and industries about 1789. The remainder of this part, by Professor G. G. Huebner, supplies the best connected account of our foreign trade that has been written. With free use of the statistics which begin with the federal government the author analyzes the growth in quantity and the change in quality of our exports and imports in the different periods (1790-1815-1860-1900-1913). Concluding chapters treat in particular of trade with our non-contiguous possessions, the organization of foreign trade, and commercial treaties.

Dr. Van Metre, the author of the two parts of the work devoted to internal commerce and coastwise trade, estimates the value of the internal trade of the country in 1910 at a sum tenfold the value of the foreign trade, and almost equal to the value of the foreign trade of the entire world. It would be interesting to discuss the basis and significance of this estimate, and to compare it with others that have been made. No one, at least, can dispute the vast importance of the domestic commerce of the country; and all will recognize the difficulty of

the task that it sets the historian. To explain in its historical development the flow of wares over the vast area of the United States involves such knowledge of physical factors, transportation conditions, and the organization of labor, as scholars will acquire only after a long period of investigation and by contributions from many sources. The author has made good use of the material readily accessible, and has gone far to develop the subject, though, inevitably, there are many parts of it which he has touched lightly if at all. In his study of the fisheries he has had a smaller and more manageable topic but one so much less important that it scarcely deserves to be treated in the detail in which it is set forth.

The last part of the second volume includes besides an admirable bibliography and a chapter by Professor G. G. Huebner on Tariff provisions concerning the shipping and foreign trade of the United States, chapters by Dr. D. S. Hanchett on The machinery of federal regulation of commerce, The consular service of the United States: its history, commercial functions, and influence upon American commerce, Policy of the United States towards shipping and ship-building, and Improvement of rivers and harbors and regulation of waterways.

The reviewer, in seeking to summarize his estimate of the work, finds in its contents only insignificant details to which he would take exception, and a great amount of excellent work which he believes American economists should accept with gratitude. He does miss such attention to the needs of the professional scholar as he thinks might be expected in a work based on the Carnegie endowment. . The statements of the text are not sufficiently documented; references and titles are not always clear. Professor Johnson's note (I:112 ff.), on the sources of information on colonial commerce, is an admirable illustration of what a work of this kind may offer; and the lack of a similar study on the sources of the national period deserves criticism. The whole study of the foreign trade in the national period rests on a statistical basis; but on what do the statistics rest, what do they mean and how far are they to be trusted? The reviewer has been unable to find in published sources any satisfactory answers to these questions, and regrets that they have not been investigated in connection with the present publication.

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